



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Gabriel van Oppen**

Title: **Going green: MINUSMA and the United Nation's turn to Counter-terrorism and Counter-insurgency**

Programme/year: 2018/2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Prof. Oldřich Bureš

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	72
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	92



Evaluation

The thesis addresses a relatively new trend in UN peacekeeping operations, which has been nicknamed as *green* peacekeeping, reflecting the shifts to counterinsurgency and counterterrorism in several recent UN operations. This in particular concerns MINUSMA, which is analyzed in the thesis, which attempts to answer two research questions: 1). Why has MINUSMA been forced to *go green*, and; 2). How it is doing so.

The structure of the thesis is coherent. The author first discusses the key concepts related to contemporary peacekeeping operations, in particular robust peacekeeping. It then offers a succinct overview of the history and evolution of the conflict in Mali and the basics about MINUSMA. The remaining chapters discuss how and why MINUSMA went green, including learning of lessons from non-UN operations via (renewed) troop contributions from several Western countries, with rich experience with counterinsurgency and counterterrorism from recent operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

One possible issue for debate is whether the thesis should claim to offer process tracing when, as acknowledged by the author, it does not do process tracing in the traditional (IR) sense. It may be therefore more appropriate to talk about learning lessons, which is also the terminology used by the UN itself. In either case, the thesis does demonstrate very well a UN learning process of many best-practices from the counterinsurgency and counterterrorism campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Overall, I therefore recommend the thesis for defense.

Suggested grade: A

Signature: